

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

her expectations. Nothing is known of the matter, but it is likely that he had shrunk from doing one of Urban's missions to Siena. Relations had again grown strained between Catherine's native city and the Holy See, in consequence of the refusal of the Sienese to assist Urban with men and money, to which they were pledged by the terms of the peace between the league and the Church, as also by the conditions of the restitution of Talamone. Francesco Casini, who was now Urban's physician as he had been Gregory's, had vainly attempted to smooth things over in the papal court. "Do not think," he wrote to the Defenders, "that I can interpose on behalf of the Commune or of the citizens, while you behave thus ; rather, while you act in this way, would I wish the Pope to think I was a Scotsman."¹ We have two letters of Catherine herself to them on the subject, urging them to assist the Pope as they had promised, especially now that he was not demanding their aid to recover the temporalities of the Church, but simply for the defence of the faith, reminding them that they had found no difficulty in giving similar support to the Florentines against the Holy See, and assuring them that Urban loved them cordially as sons,² She wrote at the same time to the prior and brethren of the *Disciplinati* of the Madonna, urging them to put all the moral pressure they could upon the Signoria, and to Stefano Maconi, bidding him be fervent and not tepid in this work : "If you will be what you ought to be, you will set all Italy aflame, not merely your own city."³ But, with the mercenaries of Hawkwood and Lucio di Lando demanding money, and scattered bands of Bretons threatening the contado, the Sienese were probably really unable to fulfil their pledges to Urban's satisfaction ; and, though Stefano urged the Signoria to pawn the goods of the Commune, and send a force to Rome, however small, as proof of their good will, nothing was done. "In all spiritual things," he wrote to Neri

¹ Letter of June 5, 1379. Fumi, *°P>*

""-t doc. 5. ⁸ Letters 311 (203) and 367 (204).

⁸ Letters 321 (144) and 368 (261). The full text of the letter to the

DifcipBnati is in the Casanatense MS. 292.